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FULBRIGHT'S SCAPEGOAT

The resignation of Admiral William

F. Raborn as director of the Central Intelligence Agency looks like a victory for Senator William Fulbright and is, therefore, to be much regretted.

It couldn't be just coincidence that last week Admiral Raborn informed the senator he would not disclose "sources and methods" of CIA operations to Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee. Three days later the admiral was without a job.

Senator Fulbright is one of the most power- and podium-hungry men on Capitol Hill and has insisted that his committee should have watchdog jurisdiction over the CIA. He is threatening a floor fight with Senator Russell of Georgia, whose Armed Services Subcommittee is, "according to my understanding," said Admiral Raborn, "responsible for Senate oversight of the CIA."

The expendable item in this controversy has become Admiral Raborn, "father of the Polaris" missile, and probably one of the best prepared persons ever to head the CIA. His departure at this critical period is unfortunate, and doubly so if it means subjecting the agency's most secret activities to the review of the senator who termed Saigon a "brothel" and U. S. Viet Nam policy as "meddling."